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HONOR AMONG INDIANS 1991

(Story of Chief Tabby)

This story brings into focus the serious long lasting friendship that Chief Tabby had with earlier settlers like 1st Presiding Bishop Joseph Stacey Murdock, Joseph S McDonald and many others.

Interactions with the Indians in Timpanogos Valley with the whites was mostly friendly, sometimes agravating on both sides, but nevertheless competitive, and never war-like.

It is rumored among the Daniel old timers that after the Peace Treaty of 20 Aug 1867, in Joseph S Murdock home at 115 East 300 North, that Chief Tabby had a piece of land in Daniel they all called "Tabby Land." When Tabby came to Heber, he would always set up his teepee on that corner with his braves and camp there. This ground was never developed nor trespassed until well after Chief Tabby died.

It is said when the Indians came to town that several fore-runners usually ran ahead of the group out of Daniels' Canyon barechested on that old dusty road to the "Tabby Land", more or less to announce the coming of the Chief and his Band.

For many years at County Fair Time and on Black Hawke encampments and other special occaions the Ute Braves would come and participate in pony races with the young white settlers and make their runs east on "Call Lane" to Mill Road and back. Other events were foot racing etc. Most often the Braves won those races. (Note: "Call Lane" or 6th South East of Main Street got its earlier name for O J Call who originally built the home at 516 East 600 South. Mr Call was an early educator here.)

There developed mutual respect and dignity between Chief Tabby and the early settlers in "Timpanogos Valley" (as the Indians called it, or "The Mountain Valley" as it was also called by them).

You see, it was at the request of Brigham Young that 100 head of cattle was sent from Timpanogos Valley to the Ute Indians as an offering to Chief Tabby and his Utes in "The Basin". As another ovation to establish peace before the final treaty of 20 Aug 1867 was actually agreed upon.

When these cattle left this valley, Joseph S McDonald, William Madison Wall and several other courageous resolute solid citizens drove them out thru Strawberry Valley, into "the Basin" and to the door of Chief Tabby's teepee.

This ovation was at first turned down by Chief Tabby and especially his war-like braves. But after a Utes Pow-wow and further additional considerations, Chief Tabby accepted these cattle as one step toward peace.

In substance, there were many reasons why relative peace was maintained in Timpanogos Valley, and also several ovations and circumstances that brought final peace to culminate in Ute and the Timpanogos settlers treaty of 1867. These include:

(1) The marriage of Joseph Stacy Murdock to his Indian adopted daughter Pernetta. (Urged by Brigham Young.)

(2) The settlers continually fed the Indians when they came to town; weary and hungry instead of driving them away. (Urged by Brigham Young: "Feed the Indians, don't fight them!")

Yes, certain noble mutual respect developed thru those years of encroachment by the Caucasians; years of hardship in taming the land to produce a livelihood, years of sacrifice on both sides, years of limiting the hunting grounds for both Utes and even the Shoshones who used this area for hunting also.

Suffice it to say at this time, a true mutual respect came out of many such experiences of these contrasting ethnic groups.

This is another evidence and testimony that similar things can happen to other contrasting peoples of different backgrounds and color.

R R GREEN, MD

Gene Cox's wife

References: Walter Montgomery, many interviews
Lisa Telke Cox interview 8/8/93
Dan S Tucker interview
Cuch interview who is the current Ute Tribal Historian at the 1991 Pow Wow.
HBUM Picture and Biography of Joseph S McDonald
HBUM Picture and Biography of William M Wall
HBUM Picture and Biography of Chief Tabby